

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, as amended.

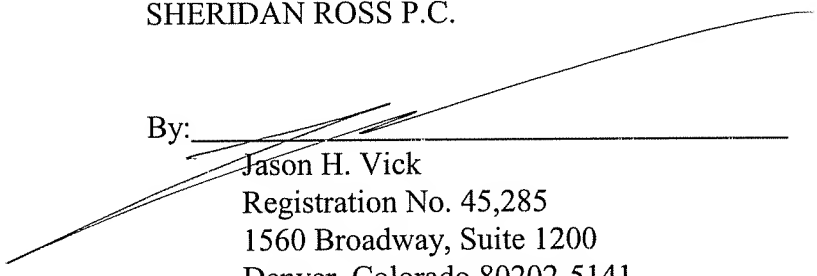
By this amendment, and without concession as to the propriety of the outstanding rejection, applicants have amended the indicated allowable claims to place them into independent form including all the limitations of the base claim in any intervening claims. Accordingly, with all rejections having been rendered moot, Applicants respectfully submit the application is in condition for allowance. A prompt Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Regarding the objection to the Information Disclosure Statement, attached hereto is a replacement form PTO 1449 that includes the application number associated with the International Search Report. Applicants thus respectfully submit the PTO 1449 is in compliance with all rules and respectfully request reconsideration of the references cited therein.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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